

Attorney Docket No. P12409-US1
Customer Number 27045

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Method for the provision of~~ A method of providing a defined quality of service in a packet switched communication system ~~with having a plurality of interconnected nodes (N) for forwarding of data packets, wherein the system comprises at least one plurality of interconnected nodes includes an edge node (EN) for connection that connects to user equipment (UE) or to a further communication system (FS) and for processing and that processes data packets which comprise having a data field specifying a handling of the packets and, wherein the plurality of interconnected nodes (N) perform a differentiated handling of the packets according to said data field wherein the communication system further comprises or is connectable, said method comprising:~~

~~connecting the edge node to a data base (DB) which that contains a record for~~ [[a]] an identified user specifying a quality of service for said the identified user[[.]];

~~an edge node providing the edge node (EN) which processes a packet for said user is provided with quality parameters from the data base (DB) identified user's record; and~~

~~processing in the edge node (EN) edge node, a data packet for the identified user by sets setting the data field specifying the handling of the packet according to the quality parameters from the identified user's record.~~

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~the step of processing the data packet in the edge node includes changing the data field is specified according to a requested from a previously specified quality of service to a quality of service according to the quality parameters from the identified user's record.~~

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3. (Currently Amended) Method The method according to claim 2, wherein the data packets are processed according to a protocol stack, ~~and an edge node (EN) sets the step of processing the data packet in the edge node includes setting~~ the data field according to information specified on a layer ~~(LA, LI)~~ in the protocol stack of the edge node ~~(EN) which that~~ is different from the layer ~~(LR)~~ evaluated by the nodes for the handling of the packets.

4. (Currently Amended) Method The method according to ~~claim 4~~ claim 2, wherein the data field is ~~specified according to~~ changed in response to a traffic load in the communication system ~~(CS)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) Method The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of connecting the edge node to a data base includes connecting the edge node to a second node that connects to the data base, wherein the quality parameters from the identified user's record are forwarded from [[a]] the second node (EN') to the edge node (EN) which processes data packets for said user.

6. (Currently Amended) Method The method according to claim 1, wherein the data packets are internet protocol packets and the data fields field is the differentiated services field in the internet protocol header.

7. (Currently Amended) Method The method according to claim 6, wherein the step of setting the data field specifying the handling of the packet according to the quality parameters from the identified user's record includes setting unspecified bits (UD) in the differentiated services field are set according to the identified user's record, wherein and the interconnected nodes handle the packet handling is performed according to the unspecified bits (UD) set.

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8. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 6, wherein ~~the bits (CP) specifying the step of setting the data field specifying the handling of the packet according to the quality parameters from the identified user's record includes setting a plurality of bits that specify per hop behavior are set according to the identified user's record.~~

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein said data base ~~(DB)~~ is a location register.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein a ~~node (N)~~ each of the plurality of interconnected nodes that receives the data packet evaluates the data field if the traffic load is above a threshold value.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Edge~~ An edge node in a packet switched communication system ~~with having a plurality of interconnected nodes (N) for [[a]] forwarding of data packets, wherein the edge node (EN) processes the data packets and is connectable to a node (N) at least one of the interconnected nodes and to user equipment (UE) or to a further communication system (FS), and the packets comprise include a data field for specifying that specifies a handling of the packets in the interconnected nodes (N), said edge node comprising:~~

~~wherein the edge node (EN) is provided with an interface to access an interface for accessing a data base (DB) holding user records and retrieving parameters specifying a quality of service for an identified user[[.]];~~

~~and the edge node (EN) is also provided with means to store means for storing the parameters specifying [[a]] the quality of service for the identified user served from a record for said user;~~

~~means for determining that an incoming packet is associated with the identified user; and~~

~~the edge node (EN) is provided with processing means which set for setting the data field of the incoming packet to specifying specify the handling of the incoming packet according to the quality parameters from the identified user's record.~~

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12. (Currently Amended) ~~Edge~~ The edge node according to claim 11, ~~wherein the node is provided with means to process further comprising means for processing data packets according to a protocol stack, and wherein the processing means evaluates data from a first layer in the protocol stack and set sets the data field on the at a second protocol layer (LR), which is evaluated by the plurality of interconnected nodes (N) for the handling of the packets, according to the data evaluated from a different layer (LA, LI) in the protocol stack the first protocol layer.~~

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Edge~~ The edge node according to claim 11, wherein ~~[[an]] the edge node is a serving GPRS support node (SGSN) or a gateway GPRS support node (GGSN).~~

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Edge~~ The edge node according to claim 13, wherein the edge node ~~comprises~~ includes a control node and a node for processing packets.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Edge~~ The edge node according to claim 11, wherein the edge node is a radio network controller (CR) or an adapter in a user equipment (UE).

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Node~~ An intermediate node for in a packet switched communication system with having a plurality of interconnected nodes (N) for ~~[[a]] forwarding of internet protocol data packets which comprise that include a differentiated services data field in the internet protocol header specifying a handling of the packets, wherein the differentiated services data field includes a number of unspecified bits, nodes (N) comprise said node comprising:~~

~~processing means for performing a differentiated handling of the packets according to said the differentiated services data field, the data packets are internet protocol packets and the data field is the differentiated services field in the internet protocol header, wherein the node evaluates;~~

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means for evaluating the unspecified bits (UD) in the differentiated services data field; and

means for handling ~~performs~~ the packet handling according to the unspecified bits (UD).

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Node~~ The intermediate node according to claim 16, ~~wherein the node (N) is provided with includes means to measure further comprising~~ means for measuring a traffic load and, wherein the data field is unspecified bits are evaluated only if the traffic load is above a threshold value.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Program~~ A program unit on a data carrier or loadable into an edge node in a packet switched communication system, wherein the edge node (EN) provides connections and processes packets sent between user equipment (UE) or a further communication system (FS) and intermediate nodes (N) in the communication system which perform a differentiated handling of the packets according to a data field in the data packets, wherein the program unit comprises:

means for loading parameters for [[a]] an identified user served by the edge node, said parameters specifying a quality of service for said the identified user[[.]];

means for determining that an incoming packet is associated with the identified user; and

~~the program unit comprises~~ means for setting the data field in the incoming packet according to the parameters for the identified user.

19. (Canceled)

20. (New) The program unit according to claim 18, wherein the means for setting the data field sets the data field so as to cause the intermediate nodes in the communication system to change the handling of the packets according to the parameters for the identified user.